UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

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ICCD/COP(2)/L.27
9 December 1998

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Second session
Dakar, 30 November-11 December 1998
Agenda item 6

OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties

Draft decision submitted by the President of the Conference following informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. Accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Brazil to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

2. Decides that the third session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Recife, Brazil, from 15 November to 26 November 1999;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Brazil with a view to entering into satisfactory arrangements for that Government to host the Conference in Recife and to meet the related costs.

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: PROGRAMME AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO THE CONVENTION BUDGET AND PROGRAMME FOR 1999

Adjustment to the convention budget and programme for 1999

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole following informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 6/COP.1, 1/ whereby, inter alia, it approved a core budget in the amount of $6,100,000 for 1999 and requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties, at its second session, any proposed adjustments to the budget for 1999,

Further recalling its decision 7/COP.1, 1/ whereby, inter alia, it took note of the estimated requirements for 1999 for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, submitted by the Executive Secretary, and requested him to report thereon to the second and third sessions of the Conference of the Parties and to propose any related adjustments that might be required for 1999,

Having considered the report on adjustments to the Convention budget for 1999 submitted by the Executive Secretary, 2/

1/ See ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1.

2/ ICCD/COP(2)/2.

GE.98-73378 (E)
DKR.98-298

A. The core budget

1. Approves the revised core budget of the Convention for 1999, as the second year of the biennium 1998/1999, amounting to US$ 6,100,000, for the following purposes, not including conference servicing costs:

		1999 expenditures (thousands of US$)
I.	Programmes administered by the secretariat of the Convention	
	Policy-making organs	42.0
	Executive direction and management	625.0
	Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies	542.0
	Facilitation of implementation and coordination	1 384.0
	External relations and public information	388.0
	Global Mechanism	1 003.0
	Administration and systems support	1 000.5
	Administrative overhead charges	648.0
	Subtotal	5 632.5
II.	Working capital reserve	467.5
	Total	6 100.0

2. Takes note of estimates of contribution to offset the expenditures approved in paragraph 1 above, as follows:

	1999 contribution (thousands of US$)
Voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany to the secretariat in addition to its existing commitments as a Party to the Convention: Total	546.4

3. Decides that the Executive Secretary, for the purpose of the 1999 budget, shall make savings equivalent to the special annual contribution of the Government of Germany to finance Convention events organized by the secretariat (see paragraph 7 below), in calculating the contributions of

Parties to the 1999 budget in a manner that the amount to be shared among the Parties shall total US$ 4,956,800 as the Parties have already budgeted for 1999;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue negotiations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue of an allotment of overhead for the financing of additional posts or activities in the administrative area of the secretariat;

5. Welcomes General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, whereby the Assembly decided to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium;

6. Reiterates its appreciation to the Government of Germany for its generous contributions of DM 1,000,000 to the secretariat, in addition to its commitments as a Party, and of a further DM 1,000,000 for Convention events organized by the secretariat;

7. Approves the creation of a new trust fund for the special annual contribution of DM 1 million from the Government of Germany to finance Convention events organized by the secretariat, made in accordance with the bilateral arrangements between the Government of Germany and the Convention secretariat, and requests the Executive Secretary to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish the new trust fund, to be managed by the Executive Secretary;

8. Approves the staffing table for the secretariat under the 1999 core budget as follows:

		1999 posts
I.	Profesional category and above	
	ASG	1
	D-2	-
	D-1	1
	P-5	6
	P-4	4
	P-3	6
	P-2	3
	Subtotal	21
II.	General Service category	11
	TOTAL	32

9. Confirms its authorization to the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines set out in paragraph 1, part I above, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for a given year for those appropriation lines, provided that in the process no appropriation line is reduced by more than 25 per cent;

10. Reaffirms that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditure, including overhead charges;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999;

12. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its third session a proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, which should include a contingency provision for conference servicing costs in the event that the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the regular United Nations budget for that biennium;

B. Amendment to the Financial Rules

13. Amends paragraph 12 (a) of the Financial Rules to read as follows:

"(a) Contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, and based on such a scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted from time to time by the General Assembly of the United Nations;"

C. Indicative scale of contributions

14. Adopts the attached indicative scale of contributions to the General Fund of the Convention for 1999, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total;

15. Recalls that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Financial Rules of the Convention, contributions for 1999 are expected on or before 1 January 1999 and that each Party should, as far in advance as possible of that date, inform the Executive Secretary of the contribution it intends to make and the projected timing of that contribution;

16. Invites Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full the contributions required to finance expenditures approved under part A, paragraph 1 above, as offset by estimated contribution noted in part A, paragraph 2.

II. The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Takes note of the estimated requirements submitted by the Executive Secretary;

2. Invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Supplementary Fund established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the financial rules, in order to:

(a) Support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7 of the Convention, as well as the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes;

(c) Advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

3. Further invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Special Fund established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the financial rules, in order to support the participation of developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the status of the Trust Funds established under the Financial Rules.

ANNEX

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)			
Parties to the CCD 1/	UN Scale (1999) (%)	Indicative Scale 2/ (%)	Estimated 1999 Contributions (US$)
1. Afghanistan */	0.003	0.004	
2. Algeria	0.094	0.137	
3. Angola */	0.010	0.010	
4. Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	
5. Argentina	1.024	1.487	
6. Armenia	0.011	0.016	
7. Austria	0.941	1.367	
8. Azerbaijan	0.022	0.032	
9. Bahrain	0.017	0.024	
10. Bangladesh */	0.010	0.010	
11. Barbados	0.008	0.012	
12. Belgium	1.103	1.602	
13. Belize	0.001	0.001	
14. Benin */	0.002	0.003	
15. Bolivia	0.007	0.011	
16. Botswana	0.010	0.015	
17. Brazil	1.470	2.135	
18. Burkina Faso */	0.002	0.003	
19. Burundi */	0.001	0.001	
20. Cambodia */	0.001	0.001	
21. Cameroon	0.013	0.019	
22. Canada	2.754	4.000	
23. Cape Verde */	0.002	0.003	
24. Central African Republic */	0.001	0.001	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)

Parties to the CCD 1/	UN Scale (1999) (%)	Indicative Scale 2/ (%)	Estimated 1999 Contributions (US$)
25. Chad */	0.001	0.001	
26. Chile	0.131	0.190	
27. China	0.973	1.414	
28. Comoros */	0.001	0.001	
29. Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	
30. Costa Rica	0.010	0.023	
31. Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	0.013	
32. Cuba	0.026	0.038	
33. Democratic Republic of the Congo */	0.007	0.010	
34. Denmark	0.691	1.003	
35. Djibouti */	0.001	0.001	
36. Dominica	0.001	0.001	
37. Dominican Republic	0.015	0.022	
38. Ecuador	0.020	0.029	
39. Egypt	0.065	0.095	
40. El Salvador	0.012	0.018	
41. Equatorial Guinea */	0.001	0.001	
42. Eritrea */	0.001	0.001	
43. Ethiopia */	0.006	0.008	
44. European Community	2.500	2.500	
45. Fiji	0.004	0.006	
46. Finland	0.542	0.788	
47. France	6.540	9.500	
48. Gabon	0.015	0.022	
49. Gambia */	0.001	0.001	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)			
Parties to the CCD 1/	UN Scale (1999) (%)	Indicative Scale 2/ (%)	Estimated 1999 Contributions (US$)
50. Germany	9.808	14.247	
51. Ghana	0.007	0.011	
52. Greece	0.451	0.510	
53. Grenada	0.001	0.001	
54. Guatemala	0.018	0.026	
55. Guinea */	0.003	0.004	
56. Guinea-Bissau */	0.001	0.001	
57. Guyana	0.001	0.001	
58. Haiti */	0.002	0.003	
59. Honduras	0.003	0.004	
60. Iceland	0.032	0.046	
61. India	0.299	0.434	
62. Indonesia	0.184	0.267	
63. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.193	0.281	
64. Ireland	0.224	0.325	
65. Israel	0.345	0.501	
66. Italy	5.432	7.890	
67. Jamaica	0.006	0.008	
68. Japan	19.984	25.000	
69. Jordan	0.006	0.008	
70. Kazakhstan	0.066	0.096	
71. Kenya	0.007	0.011	
72. Kiribati	0.001	0.001	
73. Kuwait	0.134	0.195	
74. Kyrgyzstan	0.008	0.012	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)			
Parties to the CCD 1/	UN Scale (1999) (%)	Indicative Scale 2/ (%)	Estimated 1999 Contributions (US$)
75. Lao People's Democratic Republic */	0.001	0.001	
76. Lebanon	0.016	0.023	
77. Lesotho */	0.002	0.003	
78. Liberia */	0.002	0.003	
79. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.132	0.191	
80. Luxembourg	0.068	0.099	
81. Madagascar */	0.003	0.004	
82. Malawi */	0.002	0.003	
83. Malaysia	0.180	0.262	
84. Mali */	0.002	0.003	
85. Malta	0.014	0.020	
86. Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	
87. Mauritania */	0.001	0.001	
88. Mauritius	0.009	0.013	
89. Mexico	0.980	1.423	
90. Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	
91. Mongolia	0.002	0.003	
92. Morocco	0.041	0.060	
93. Mozambique */	0.001	0.001	
94. Myanmar */	0.008	0.010	
95. Namibia	0.007	0.011	
96. Nepal */	0.004	0.006	
97. Netherlands	1.631	2.370	
98. Nicaragua	0.001	0.001	
99. Niger */	0.002	0.003	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)			
Parties to the CCD 1/	UN Scale (1999) (%)	Indicative Scale 2/ (%)	Estimated 1999 Contributions (US$)
100. Nigeria	0.040	0.058	
101. Niue	0.001	0.001	
102. Norway	0.610	0.886	
103. Oman	0.051	0.074	
104. Pakistan	0.059	0.085	
105. Panama	0.013	0.019	
106. Paraguay	0.014	0.020	
107. Peru	0.095	0.138	
108. Portugal	0.417	0.606	
109. Romania	0.067	0.096	
110. Saint Kits and Nevis	0.001	0.001	
111. Saint Lucia	0.001	0.001	
112. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	
113. Samoa	0.001	0.001	
114. Sao Tome and Principe */	0.001	0.001	
115. Saudi Arabia	0.569	0.827	
116. Senegal	0.006	0.008	
117. Seychelles	0.002	0.003	
118. Sierra Leone */	0.001	0.001	
119. South Africa	0.366	0.531	
120. Spain	2.589	3.761	
121. Sudan */	0.007	0.010	
122. Swaziland	0.002	0.003	
123. Sweden	1.084	1.574	
124. Switzerland	1.215	1.765	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)			
Parties to the CCD 1/	UN Scale (1999) (%)	Indicative Scale 2/ (%)	Estimated 1999 Contributions (US$)
125. Syrian Arab Republic	0.064	0.093	
126. Tajikistan	0.005	0.007	
127. Togo */	0.001	0.001	
128. Tunisia	0.028	0.041	
129. Turkey	0.440	0.639	
130. Turkmenistan	0.008	0.012	
131. Uganda */	0.004	0.006	
132. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.090	7.394	
133. United Republic of Tanzania */	0.003	0.004	
134. Uzbekistan	0.037	0.054	
135. Venezuela	0.176	0.256	
136. Viet Nam	0.007	0.011	
137. Yemen */	0.010	0.010	
138. Zambia */	0.002	0.003	
139. Zimbabwe	0.009	0.013	
TOTAL	72.413	100.000	4 956 800

*/ Least developed countries.

1/ Actual Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties to the Convention as of 11 December 1998.

2/ In accordance with paragraph 12 (a) of the financial rules, Indicative rates of contribution are based on the United Nations scale of assessments, as currently contained in document A/RES/52/215 of 20.01.98, adjusted to obtain a total of 100 per cent and to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

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REPORT OF THE SESSION

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session

Rapporteur: Mr. Samvel BALOYAN (Armenia)

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* To be completed following the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference.

I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Welcoming ceremony

1. On 30 November 1998, H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, opened the welcoming ceremony and made a statement.

2. Statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who also conveyed a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

B. Opening of the session

3. The second session of the Conference of the Parties, convened pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, was opened in Dakar, Senegal, on 30 November 1998, by the representative of the President of the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Election of the President

(Agenda item 1)

4. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference elected H.E. Mr. Souty Touré, Minister for the Environment and Protection of Nature of the Republic of Senegal, as President by acclamation.

5. At the same meeting, the President made a statement.

D. Opening and general statements

6. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement.

7. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the Group of 77), Austria (on behalf of the States Members of the European Union), Canada (also on behalf of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States of America) and Ecuador (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group).

9. The representative of Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA-TM) also made a statement on behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations.

10. At the 2nd plenary meeting, statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and the representative of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: League of Arab States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Statements were made by the representatives of the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme also made a statement.

11. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 7 December, the Vice-President of the World Bank, Mr. Ian Johnson, made a statement.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 3)

12. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, following statements by the representative of Austria (on behalf of the States Members of the European Union) and Benin (on behalf of the African Group), the Conference adopted its agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/1 and Corr.1.

B. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 2)

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference heard statements by the chairmen of the regional groups, who put forward candidates for the posts of Vice-President of the Conference and for the post of Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology.

14. At the same meeting, the Conference elected Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology at its second session.

15. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, the representative of Benin stated on behalf of the African Group that, as host continent of the second session of the Conference of the Parties, it wished to show understanding and flexibility with respect to that group's representation on the Bureau. Accordingly, it was prepared to conform to the consensus by

claiming only two members for the Bureau of the second session, on the understanding that it intends to claim three members in a Bureau of 11 members for the third and subsequent sessions.

16. At the same meeting, the Conference then elected by acclamation the following officers to serve on its Bureau for the second session:

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)

Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray (Argentina)

Mr. Jafarov Ogtay (Azerbaijan)

Mr. Marc Gedopt (Belgium)

Mr. Olivier Jalbert (Canada)

Mr. Abdelmajid Khabour (Jordan)

Mr. Ali Saad Altokhais (Saudi Arabia)

Mr. Hatem Ben Salem (Tunisia)

Vice-President-cum-Rapporteur:

Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia)

C. Organization of work, including the establishment of a Committee of the Whole

(Agenda item 3)

17. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference approved the proposed organization of work for the session, as contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/1, annex II, and Corr.1.

Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

18. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole at its second session to consider outstanding issues for adoption by the Conference.

19. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, upon the proposal of the President, the Conference designated Mr. Marc Gedopt (Belgium) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

D. Committee on Science and Technology

20. The Committee on Science and Technology was convened under the Chairmanship of Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran). The Committee held seven meetings (1st to 7th), from 1 to 4 December 1998.

21. The Committee had before it the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of vice-chairpersons.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Benchmarks and indicators.
5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.
6. Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology.
7. Traditional knowledge.
8. Future work programme of the Committee.
9. Roster of independent experts.
10. Creation, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels.
11. Other matters.
12. Report of the session.

22. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee elected the following Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation*: Mr. Samuel Mutiso (Kenya), Mr. Guido Soto (Chile) and Ms. Linda Brown (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

23. The Committee on Science and Technology made a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which took action on them at its 5th and __ meetings, on 7 and __ December (see paras. ____) (to be completed).

E. Admission of organizations as observers

(Agenda item 5)

Observer status for intergovernmental organizations

24. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, the Conference decided to accord observer status to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(2)/12, annex I.

25. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 4 December, the Conference decided to accord observer status to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(2)/12/Add.1, annex I.

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* The post of one Vice-Chairperson remained vacant.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

26. At its 3rd meeting, the Conference also decided to accredit the non-governmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(2)/12, annex III.

F. Attendance

[To be completed]

G. Documentation

[To be completed]

[REMAINING CHAPTERS AND FINAL DECISIONS TO BE COMPLETED]

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Administrative and support arrangements for the secretariat, including interim arrangements

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole following informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 3/COP.1 on the designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning, administrative and support arrangements, and 4/COP.1 on interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and for the Convention secretariat,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 on implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Taking note of the secretariat report on institutional and interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and the Convention secretariat, 1/

1/ ICCD/COP(2)/9.

GE.98-73392 (E)
DKR.98-335

1. Accepts the arrangements as outlined in the secretariat report referred to in the preamble to this decision;

2. Notes with appreciation the appointment by the Secretary-General of the first head of the Convention secretariat in accordance with its decision 4/COP.1, paragraph 4;

3. Calls on the General Assembly, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States, including those which are on the list of least developed countries, that are Parties to the Convention, to decide to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations the conference servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage approved by the General Assembly, including the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2000-2001;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit to the General Assembly the report and decisions of its second session;

5. Reiterates its appreciation to Governments, the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that have supported the interim secretariat;

6. Invites the international community, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental institutions and the private sector to continue to support and cooperate with the Convention secretariat and requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate with those entities with a view to reaching understandings that specify the nature of the cooperation and support that each entity would provide.

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING: HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY

Agreement concerning the headquarters of the permanent secretariat of the Convention

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole following informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 5/COP.1 of 10 October 1997, by which it accepted the offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to host the secretariat of the Convention,

Also recalling that the headquarters agreement was signed on 18 August 1998 and that an exchange of notes forming part of the agreement took place on the same day,

Bearing in mind the note by the secretariat on the headquarters agreement 2/ and the statement made by the delegation of Germany on the successful conclusion of the headquarters agreement and its speedy entry into operation,

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2/ ICCD/COP(2)/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

GE.98-73399 (E)
DKR.98-341

Noting that the Federal Republic of Germany has issued an ordinance, which became effective on 23 October 1998, implementing major parts of the headquarters agreement under German law, and further noting that article 3, paragraph 3, article 4 and article 5 of the headquarters agreement require ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany,

Noting with satisfaction that the said ratification is nearing completion,

Approves the agreement signed in Bonn on 18 August 1998 concerning the headquarters of the Convention secretariat, subject to its ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on this matter if necessary.

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Convention to Combat Desertification

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, AND OF ITS INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING SUPPORT TO REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole following informal consultations

Regional cooperation between countries of eastern and central Europe

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, 1/ noting the wish of some eastern and central European countries to establish an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention,

Also recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, paragraph 6, inviting the Conference of the Parties to facilitate the elaboration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the eastern and central European region,

Having taken note of the wish of the concerned countries to become Parties to the Convention by completing the process of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession,

1. Urges observer countries from eastern and central Europe to take appropriate actions to become parties to the Convention through the early completion of the process of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention, thereby facilitating adoption of the additional annex to the Convention by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

1/ ICCD/COP(1)/11, paragraph 53.

2. Takes note of the progress made through the informal consultations aimed at producing a draft for an additional implementation annex to the Convention;

3. Invites countries of eastern and central Europe to pursue consultations with a view of producing a draft additional implementation annex to the Convention;

4. Invites also the countries of eastern and central Europe to submit a draft additional implementation annex to the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

5. Requests the secretariat to continue to support the process under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES:

CONSIDERATION WITH A VIEW TO ADOPTING, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 27 OF THE CONVENTION, PROCEDURES AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF QUESTIONS THAT MAY ARISE WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION

CONSIDERATION WITH A VIEW TO PROPOSING FOR ADOPTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 28, PARAGRAPHS 2 (A) AND 6 OF THE CONVENTION, AN ANNEX CONTAINING ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION PROCEDURES

Resolution of question; annexes on arbitration and conciliation procedures

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on the basis of informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of article 27 of the Convention, which states that the Conference of the Parties shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also article 28, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention, which refers to arbitration procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

Recalling further article 28, paragraph 6, of the Convention, which refers to conciliation procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

GE.98-73419 (E)
DKR.98-354

Bearing in mind that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, decided 1/ to include consideration of the issues referred to in the foregoing paragraphs as selected items on the agenda for its second session,

1. Takes note of the report of the secretariat on such issues; 2/

2. Decides to consider the issue further at the third session of the Conference of the Parties in the light of the progress of the negotiations on the same issues in other relevant environmental conventions with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

3. Decides also to consider at the third session of the Conference of the Parties the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine and make recommendations on the issues of arbitration and conciliation procedures, taking into account the document prepared by the secretariat. 2/

1/ Decision 9/COP.1.

2/ ICCD/COP(2)/10.

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Agenda item 6 (h)

OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS

Collaboration with other conventions

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole following informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of article 8 of the Convention, on the relationship with other conventions, and article 22, paragraph 2 (i), on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions,

Recalling also article 23, paragraph 2 (d), on the coordination by the secretariat of its activities with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions,

Bearing in mind its decision 9/COP.1, paragraph 3 (a), and its decision 13/COP.1, paragraph 2, on collaboration and coordination with other international bodies and conventions, and decision 14/COP.1 on the Global Environment Facility,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat on collaboration and synergies among Rio conventions for the implementation of the Convention, 1/

1/ ICCD/COP(2)/7.

GE.98-73426 (E)
DKR.98-364

1. Requests the secretariat to take steps to implement that report in consultation with other relevant secretariats, and to develop, as appropriate, a memorandum of understanding to define their collaboration and cooperation;

2. Also requests the Executive Secretary, in preparing documents for the Conference of the Parties, to seek, as appropriate, the views of and inputs from relevant convention secretariats, as well as from relevant international organizations, agencies and institutions;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on his activities in fulfilling this decision, bearing in mind the relevant resolutions and/or decisions of the United Nations General Assembly.

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PARTS OF RULES 22, 31 AND 47 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE NOT YET AGREED UPON

Outstanding rules of procedure

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on the basis of informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

1. Decides to replace paragraph 1 of rule 22 with the following:

"At the commencement of the first meeting of each ordinary session, a President, nine Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session in a manner that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members. They shall serve as the Bureau of the session. One of the Vice-Presidents shall act as Rapporteur. In appointing the Bureau, due regard shall be paid to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions. The offices of President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the regional groups recognized by the practice of the United Nations."

GE.98-73433 (E)
DKR.98-370

2. Decides to replace rule 31 with the following:

"The Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, the Chairperson of any other subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own four Vice-Chairpersons, one of which shall act as Rapporteur. The Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms."

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Agenda item 6 (c) (v)

OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: PROGRAMME AND BUDGET: PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Programme of work for the Conference of the Parties

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on the basis of informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 9/COP.1 on its work programme, 10/COP.1 on review of the implementation of the Convention and 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

1. Decides to include the following selected items in the agenda of its third session and, if necessary, its fourth session:

(a) Review of reports on implementation of affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

(b) Consideration of progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa;

(c) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(d) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention;

(e) Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant Conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies;

(f) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

(g) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2 (a) and 6, of the Convention;

(h) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology relating to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes;

2. Decides also to include the following selected items in the agenda of its fourth session and, if necessary, its fifth session:

(a) Review of reports on implementation of affected country Parties, in particular of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process, and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

(b) Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa;

3. Requests the secretariat of the Convention to circulate in all official languages at least three months prior to the third session of the Conference of the Parties a provisional annotated agenda, and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, AND OF ITS INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING SUPPORT TO REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on the basis of informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraphs 2 (a) and (b), article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26 of the Convention,

Reaffirming decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

Having considered the review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional action programmes, [1]

1. Recalls that, at its third session, in 1999, it shall examine the reports of affected African country Parties and, at its fourth session, in 2000, the reports of affected country Parties in other regions;

2. Recalls also that developed country Parties shall report, at each session, on measures taken to assist action programmes of those affected developing country Parties reporting for the session, and that relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are invited to do likewise;

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/5.

3. Recalls further that reports are to be submitted in conformity with the procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation contained in decision 11/COP.1;

4. Calls upon Governments, the United Nations system and all other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to provide technical and financial support with a view to assisting affected African country Parties for the compilation and communication of information to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its third session, in 1999, for consideration, as well as identifying the technical and financial needs associated with action programmes;

5. Requests the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on its activities related to paragraph 24 of the procedures contained in decision 11/COP.1 and article 23, paragraph 2 (c), of the Convention.

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Agenda item 6 (c) (iv)

OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: PROGRAMME AND BUDGET: MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY OF THE SECRETARIAT

Medium-term strategy of the secretariat

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole based on informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Convention and decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties regarding the role and functions of the Convention secretariat,

Having considered the medium-term strategy of the secretariat, [1]

1. Decides to have further consideration of the issue related to the medium-term strategy of the secretariat in the context of the implementation of the Convention and programme proposals;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to elaborate a new document on the medium-term strategy of the secretariat based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the second session of the Conference of the Parties, as well as on written submissions by the Parties no later than 30 April 1999, and to submit that document and a compendium to the Conference of the Parties for consideration.

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/6.

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, AND OF ITS INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING SUPPORT TO REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Implementation of the Convention

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole based on informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 10/COP.1 on review of implementation of the Convention,

Noting that, in spite of efforts made to address the issue at its second session, it was recognized that more time was needed for its consideration,

1. Invites Parties to make submissions in writing to the Convention secretariat in anticipation of consideration of this decision, to be received by the secretariat no later than 30 April 1999;

2. Requests the secretariat to compile submissions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

3. Also requests the secretariat to include the consideration of decision 10/COP.1 on the agenda for its third session;

4. Decides to transmit to its third session the draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/L.9, proposed by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, for consideration in place of document A/AC.241/L.42, referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 19/COP.1.

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DKR.98-408

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Agenda item 6

OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Report on the Round Table of Parliamentarians

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration by Members of Parliament regarding the process of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, made by the President of the National Assembly of Senegal reporting on the outcome of the Round Table of Parliamentarians, which took place in Dakar on 7 December 1998 and which saw the participation of 35 Parliamentarians from 21 countries,

1. Takes note, with satisfaction, of the Declaration;

2. Decides to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its third session.

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DKR.98-416

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Dakar, 30 November-11 December 1998

Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Senegal

Indonesia*: draft decision

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998 at the invitation of the Government of Senegal,

Noting with satisfaction that the second session of the Conference of the Parties was held in Africa,

1. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of Senegal for having made it possible for the second session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Dakar and for the excellent facilities so graciously placed at its disposal;

2. Requests the Government of Senegal to convey to the city of Dakar and the people of Senegal the gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PARTS OF RULES 22, 31 AND 47 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE NOT YET AGREED UPON

Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties

1. Decides to replace the marginal note, the title and paragraph 1 of rule 47 of the rules of procedure with the following:

"Majority required

"Rule 47

"1. [The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by [a simple majority vote] [a two-thirds majority vote] of the Parties present and voting, [except for decisions taken under article 21 [and article 22, paragraph 2 (g)] of the Convention which shall be agreed upon by consensus, or] [unless otherwise provided by

"(a) the Convention,

"(b) the financial rules referred to in article 22, paragraph 2 (e) of the Convention, or

"(c) the present rules of procedure.]]"

2. Requests the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure on the agenda of the third session of the Conference of the Parties.

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: REVIEW, PURSUANT TO THE SAME ARTICLE, OF THE REPORT OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM ON ITS ACTIVITIES, AND THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO IT

Global Mechanism

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on the basis of informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 24/COP.1 and 25/COP.1 on the organization to house the Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities, and on collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism, respectively,

Taking note of the reports of the secretariat and of the International Fund for Agricultural Development as the organization housing the Global Mechanism and the joint report of the Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank [1] and of the draft memorandum of understanding with the International Fund for Agricultural Development as the organization housing the International Fund for Agricultural Development/Global Mechanism, [2]

Having considered the report of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism [3] and the report of the current chair of the Facilitation Committee, [4]

1. Notes with concern that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998, as indicated by the Conference of the Parties at its first session in its decision 24/COP.1;

2. Notes with appreciation the role played by the United Nations Development Programme in identifying and selecting the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism in consultation with, and his appointment by, the President of IFAD;

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/4.

[2] ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1.

[3] ICCD/COP(2)/CRP.1.

[4] ICCD/COP(2)/CRP.1.

GE.98-73515
DKR.98-441

3. Also notes with appreciation the efforts made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to establish the framework for the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the International Fund for Agricultural Develoment as an organic part of the structure of the Fund, and looks forward to a prompt starting of its activities, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

4. Further notes with appreciation the role of the Facilitation Committee with its expanded membership in supporting the work of the Global Mechanism and looks forward to the Committee's continued support;

5. Invites the International Fund for Agricultural Development to pursue modalities of collaboration between itself and the community of non-governmental organizations, as well as collaboration with other interested organizations, including the private sector, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

6. Requests the Global Mechanism to establish an on-going process for consultation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations as well as with the private sector, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session for consideration and to take appropriate actions;

7. Requests also the Global Mechanism and the Convention secretariat to cooperate in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention implementation in accordance with their respective roles as contained in the Memorandum of Understanding;

8. Invites the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and, as appropriate, the other members of the Facilitation Committee to nominate focal points for the purpose of liaison with the Global Mechanism;

9. Invites relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Food Programme, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations and regional development banks, as well as all other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to actively support the activities of the Global Mechanism;

10. Takes note with appreciation of the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some country Parties, and reiterates its appeal to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to make promptly further voluntary contributions to support the activities and, as appropriate, in addition to the core budget, to support the functioning of the Global Mechanism;

11. Takes note of the first draft of an Operational Strategy and requests the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to complete the development of an Operational Strategy, so as to ensure full consideration of all its main functions including mobilizing and channelling of financial resources as contained in its decision 24/COP(1);

12. Decides to undertake, at its third session, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the first review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism and, on the basis of this review, consider and take appropriate action.

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OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: REVIEW, PURSUANT TO THE SAME ARTICLE, OF THE REPORT OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM ON ITS ACTIVITIES, AND THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO IT

Memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on the basis of informal consultations

The Conference of the Parties

1. Takes note of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism, [1] jointly prepared by the secretariat of the Convention and the Fund, and requests the secretariat of the Convention to continue consultations on the text of the draft Memorandum of Understanding, in order to ensure that comments by Parties are taken into account, and to submit a revised draft of the Memorandum of Understanding for compilation and decision by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

2. Decides to transmit to its third session draft decision ICCD/COP(2)/L.19 submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China;

3. Calls upon all those to whom the draft Memorandum of Understanding is addressed to act, pending its entry into operation, as if it were already in effect.

[1] ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1, annex.

GE.98-73528
DKR.98-449